

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

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R 272242Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: ARGENTIA STRIKE

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM C.J. MARSHALL,
DIR OF DEFENSE RELATIONS, DEPT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CONCERNING LABOR PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES
AT ARGENTIA NAVAL STATION. LETTER PROVOKED BY WRITTEN
COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ST. JOHN'S
WEST, W. CARTER, TO FONMIN MACEACHEN.

2. LETTER REPORTS THAT "MR. CARTER STATES THAT
APPROXIMATELY 60 CIVILIANS, MOST OF WHOM ARE SKILLED
TRADESMEN, ARE RECEIVING WAGES LESS THAN THOSE PAID BY
THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE AREA AND ALSO LESS THAN THOSE
IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE. HE ALSO SAYS THAT "IT APPEARS"
THAT THEY ARE BEING DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO
BECOME PART OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS.
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH
MIGHT SHED LIGHT ON THIS ASPECT OF MR. CARTER'S
STATEMENT."

3. LETTER CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT "WITH REGARD
TO WAGES, MR. CARTER MADE REFERENCE TO THE BLUE
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COLLAR WORKERS WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED AND INCREASE IN

THE AMOUNT OF 8.2 PERCENT AND CLERICAL WORKERS WHO RECEIVED INCREASES FROM 17 TO 20 PERCENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER DETAILS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE REGARDING THE METHOD BY WHICH THE EMPLOYEES' SALARY SCALES ARE DECIDED."

4. LETTER REFERS TO INFORMATION GIVEN BY EMBASSY ORALLY THAT APPARENTLY "DIFFERENT WAGE SURVEYS BOTH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WERE USED FOR DETERMINING THE SALARIES OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYEES... THESE SURVEYS WERE ONES MADE BY STATISTICS CANADA; I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ASSIST US IN IDENTIFYING THE PARTICULAR STUDIES AND THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYEES CONCERNED."

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE WHICH COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REGARDING THIS ISSUE. ISSUE HAS BEEN RAISED TO POLITICAL LEVEL AND EMBASSY HOPES THAT REPLY CAN EFFECTIVELY REFUTE ANY POSSIBLE ASSERTION THAT ITS CANADIAN EMPLOYEES IN CANADA LESS WELL OR WITH FEWER RIGHTS THAN CANADIAN EMPLOYEES OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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